



The Physician's BOOKSHELF

CARDIAC SURGERY—By John C. Norman, M.D., Associate in Surgery, Harvard Medical School; Boston City Hospital and Children's Hospital Medical Center Boston, Massachusetts, and 56 contributors. Foreword by Francis D. Moore, M.D. Appleton-Century-Crofts (Division of Meredith Publishing Company), New York, N.Y. 1967. 603 pages, \$15 (Cloth).

This is a potpourri of cardiac diseases and their surgical treatment. If not inclusive of material, and it is not, it does include almost every possible living contributor. Because of the vast number of authors the book verges on a compilation of the recent literature, but it does answer just that need. No particular level of knowledge will derive more from it than another. Medical students, house officers, and practitioners will find something of interest. The book, especially the paperback edition for \$9.75, is recommended for a good survey of the current field.

NORMAN E. SHUMWAY, M.D.

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SYNOPSIS OF DERMATOLOGY—By Wm. D. Stewart, M.D., F.R.C.P. (C), Clinical Instructor (Dermatology), Department of Medicine, Subdepartment of Dermatology, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia; Julius L. Danto, M.D., Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology; Visiting Staff, St. Paul's Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia; and Stuart Maddin, M.D., Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology, Visiting Staff, St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. 63103, 1966. 664 pages, \$10.85.

This book was written for the non-dermatologist as a practical text for the diagnosis and treatment of skin disease. In an attempt to reach a happy medium between an outline and a voluminous reference work, the authors achieve qualified success.

The pertinent concepts of pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment cover the field in depth but with a clear understandable manner that has been the hallmark of the "Synopsis" series. Archaic eponyms and obsolete terminology are refreshingly absent while newer etiologic concepts and methods of treatment including some controversial works are given appropriate discussion. The core of this text is devoted to specific dermatologic disease entities with an especially well thought out chapter on allergy. A ready reference with the commonly used drugs and the type of rashes they produce is clearly outlined in this section.

The illustrative material includes both adequate black and white photographs of the common diseases as well as a number of truly superb color plates not usually found in a text of this kind.

Unfortunately, this synopsis lacks some of the qualities that could make it most useful to the non-dermatologist. The specific entities are grouped in a somewhat confusing manner and in many instances the reader would have to know the name of the disease or the cause of it before

being able to read about it. An excellent chapter on regional diagnosis tends to compensate for this problem and greatly aids in orderly classification of disease.

The authors make a commendable attempt at providing a ready reference to treatment and include the all accepted methods of therapy lacking in most texts. However, dermatologic prescriptions which are complex and need compounding are given too much emphasis over the more readily accessible and easily remembered prepackaged medications. The section on dermatologic techniques is welcome, but could benefit with a more detailed explanation and diagramming of invaluable medical mycology and patch testing methods.

In spite of these shortcomings, this text is probably the most complete and certainly the most up to date work of its kind now available. It will be of value to the student if utilized as a basic text of dermatology. The non-dermatologist will find the book a worthwhile addition to his library, but this is a text and one should not expect an illustrated outline or diagnostic manual.

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GASTRIN—Proceedings of a Conference held in September, 1964; Sponsored by the School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles—By Morton I. Grossman, Editor. UCLA Forum in Medical Sciences, Number 5. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1966. 351 pages, \$12.00.

This conference constitutes, as one of the participants remarks, a milestone in gastrin history. Dr. Grossman, as Chairman and Editor was successful in bringing together notable experts in this field of enquiry and the result, both as regards the quality of the formal presentations and the verbatim discussions, is very impressive. Professor Gregory's contribution on the chemistry of gastrins 1 and 11 retails one of the really exciting stories in physiology research, in which the pace has dramatically accelerated in the past few years, culminating in the synthesis of gastrins 1 and 11 by Professor Kenner and his colleagues at Liverpool. There are excellent papers by Dr. Uvnäs and his colleagues at the Karolinska Institute on the assay of gastrin and factors controlling its release, by Dr. Card from Edinburgh on the action of gastrin on gastric secretion and a very useful review of gastrin-like activity of tumors by Dr. Hallenbeck, to name a few of the generally excellent contributions. There are still a sufficient number of problems remaining to encourage new investigators into the field, as Dr. Grossman points out in his *envoi*. The relation of the heptadecapeptide gastrins of Gregory with the large molecule of Tauber is still undetermined; the cells in the gastric antrum and possibly elsewhere, which produce gastrin, have not been identified; the role of the vagus in relation to gastrin stimulation is unclear, to name only a few outstanding questions. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the field.

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